

The Coleman Journal

Vol. 50, No. 14, Thursday, April 15, 1971

- You Can't Cover Coleman Without The Journal -

Coleman, Alberta

NELSON GETS LIFE!

The self-admitted killer of eight persons, the man convicted of the murder of two children — and the man who a Vancouver psychiatrist says would do it again — was sentenced to life imprisonment April 2 by a B.C. Supreme Court jury sitting at Cranbrook.

Dale Merle Nelson, 32, West Creston, was charged with non-capital murder of seven-year-old Tracey Jean Wasyk and eight-year-old Catherine Rose St. Amand both of West Creston.

The deaths were reported Sept. 5, 1970.

Details of the trial's first week were published by The Coleman Journal in its April 1 edition. Here, in summary, is testimony from the second and last week of the trial, March 29 to April 2.

Nelson was originally charged with the non-capital murder of eight West Creston residents — three adults and five children — but the Crown indicted Nelson on only two of the deaths.

The accused was represented by M. E. Moran, QC, of Castlegar. Crown prosecutor was T. G. Bowen-Colthurst, of Victoria.

* * *

DAY SIX — Monday, March 29/71

Dale Merle Nelson says the public should "take off their hats" were open, although I did feel he to the RCMP, for they are all did not know everything going on around him." Cpl. Marcotte said.

Nelson made the remarks in a Cpl. James Barr said he search-written statement given to ed Nelson after his arrest and police Sept. 16 while he was in found "a knife which the Lower Mainland Correctional Institute at Burnaby.

The Crown rested its case yesterday" ammunition on the cartridge belt.

Cpl. Barr said Nelson "appeared very tired and very shaken" and was "very pale in color" during testimony from Corporal Allan Marcotte. Col. Marcotte said he was unarmed when he first saw Nelson living in bush area about 75 yards behind Nelson's cabin at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 6.

He said he had gone to the Nelson cabin to investigate a polyethylene window which appeared to have been cut open.

Before returning to the house, the corporal heard the mid-second and shoe tip of a man lying on his back about 20 or 30 feet away. He said the man's hands were folded on his chest and the chest was rising and falling.

Constable Glen Madison said he and his German shepherd dog, Count, were the first to rush to 8 a.m. Sept. 8.

He said Nelson started the conversation by saying, "It's not you I'm here to see all the time now. My wife must have told you I was going to do myself in."

Then he said, "It would be a fitting punishment, don't you think?"

Const. Price said Nelson's hands were shaking, he was breathing hard and he paced back and forth in the cell before falling asleep about 10:30 p.m.

Cpl. Marcotte said he checked the rifle and found a live round in the chamber — and three more live rounds in the magazine.

Under cross-examination by defence lawyer M. E. Moran, QC, Cpl. Marcotte said the features on Nelson's face at the time of his arrest, "depicted, at least to me, that he was very frightened."

"I felt he may be in shock." The coroner agreed with Mr. Moran that Nelson appeared "dumb-founded" about his arrest.

He said there was a six- or eight-inch stab wound in the girl's left back, which penetrated into the dismembered body near Nelson's left lung half-way into the girl's car Sept. 5.

He said both lungs had collapsed and about 11 ounces of free blood were found in the girl's chest cavity.

He said he found a nine-inch-long cut on the girl's stomach from below the rib cage, almost to the pubic arch. He said the cut went through the abdominal wall "because the bowels were protruding," but no internal organ had been damaged.

DAY SEVEN — Tuesday, March 30/71

Although Dale Merle Nelson was — and still is — suffering from a "disease of the mind" . . . he would not have committed two murders if a policeman had been near him, according to testimony given by Vancouver psychiatrist Dr. Robert Halliday.

Dr. Halliday was called as first witness for the defense.

He said there is no formal name for Nelson's "relatively uncommon disease of the mind" but the nearest and clearest category in which it could be placed is "schizoaffective psychosis."

Const. Laurier LeCoste testified that he found an arm belonging to a head and a torso in the same vicinity — and assumed they had been thrown to the various locations. He said he assumed the parts were not lying where they had been cut off.

Testimony indicated the distance from the car to the parts of the body, scattered in a semi-circle varying from 30 to 75 feet away.

DAY EIGHT — Wednesday, March 31/71

"There had been suicidal tendencies and attempts while depressed," Dr. Halliday said.

Prior to the events of Sept. 4 and 5, he said Nelson had had further quarrels with his wife and she had asked him to leave the home again."

Dr. Halliday said Nelson also indicated "an factor that may have led to this deterioration than he had been sexually sterilized for a month or two earlier."

The doctor said his opinion of Nelson's mental state on the day of the murders was based on the assumption that Nelson had not taken LSD — but would not alter Nelson consumed LSD.

Dr. Halliday said Nelson's return to the Wasyk house for the body of Tracey tended to "substantiate the bizarre nature of the person's thinking and feeling" and showed his "psychotic nature."

The doctor said dismemberment of Tracey's body, and the stretching around of the girl's body, was an example of "such a bizarre and unacceptable in any sense behavior."

Dr. Halliday said sexual perversion was the motivation behind the dismemberment of Tracey and showed "strong, uncontrollable, aggressive, hostile feelings toward women."

He said he believes Nelson is still suffering from a certain element, from a disease.

Justice J. G. Aikins said he believed the Supreme Court jury, they could find Nelson guilty of murder, guilty of manslaughter, not guilty by reason of insanity, or not guilty.

Dr. Halliday said the plan Nelson had formulated may have been some form of sexual deviance.

DAY NINE — Thursday, April 1/71

Dale Merle Nelson was mentally ill — but he knew he was committing an illegal act — when he killed two West Creston girls, a psychiatrist told a B.C. Supreme Court jury in its eighth day of sitting on non-capital murder charges.

Dr. Roderick Whitman, of Vancouver, after defence lawyer M. E. Moran, QC, rested his case after calling only one witness.

Dr. Whitman said he believed Nelson — at the time of the killings Sept. 5 — was mentally ill within the terms set out in the Mental Health Act . . . but was not suffering a disease of the mind which rendered him incapable of appreciating the nature and quality of an act and knowing only one witness.

He said from an early age, Nelson had strong feelings of being persecuted and rejected mainly by his parents and his family — but also by his wife's family.

The doctor said in his opinion, Nelson could not have formed the intention to kill or the intention to cause bodily harm to Tracey Wasyk and Catherine St. Amand, he was not suffering natural impairment, and he could perform better sexually when he had been drinking.

DAY NINE — Thursday, April 1/71

The non-capital murder trial of Dale Merle Nelson, 32, ended today with the defence asking for a not guilty verdict — by reason of insanity.

The final Crown witness said the violent behavior which caused Nelson to kill eight persons at West Creston during the 1970 Labor Day weekend — could recur.

Dr. Joseph Thomas, of Vancouver, testified for the Crown that Nelson is legally sane, but suffers a mental disorder, one part of which is violent behavior.

Asked by defence lawyer, M. E. Moran, QC, if Nelson's mental disorder is prone to recur, Dr. Thomas replied:

"Yes, in his personality make-up, yes."

Dr. Thomas said he has examined about 350 accused murderers while acting as a consultant psychiatrist for the B.C. attorney-general's department.

The Criminal Code of Canada says a person is insane only if he is suffering a disease of the mind which renders him incapable of appreciating the nature and quality of the act — and knowing its wrong."

Dr. Thomas said Nelson's pattern of disorder is largely behavioral "rather than a pattern of mental disease."

Mr. Moran asked how Nelson could appreciate his acts when he killed Mrs. Shirley Wasyk and her daughter Tracey, left the house hearing a police siren and then altered had Nelson consumed LSD.

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Women's Page

BIRTHS

Blairmore Youth Earns Honors In Crowsnest Music Festival

VANDERLINDEN — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Art Vanderlinden of Bellevue, Alta., March 20, twins.

PARKER — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Parker, of Coleman, March 23, a boy.

BAKER — Born to Mr. and Mrs. William Baker, of Coleman, March 31, a girl.

WINSTONE — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Winstone, of Hillcrest, April 5, a girl.

MARRA — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Sarafina Marra, of Blairmore, April 7, a girl.

PIZZEY — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Pizze, of Blairmore, April 8, a girl.

See HONORS ... Page Four

LONG DISTANCE LONG DISTANCE LONG DISTANCE



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ON SUNDAY ON SUNDAY ON SUNDAY

Only Alberta has it! SUNDAY-50* DDD rates. You can phone anyone in Alberta from any other Alberta point at fifty cents or less for three great minutes if you dial direct.

Best of all, low SUNDAY-50 rates are in effect every week from Saturday midnight to 6 a.m. Monday.

*Rates do not apply to person-to-person, collect, third party billing, time and charge, pay phone, or credit card calls.

If you happen to live in an area without DDD service, SUNDAY-50 rates apply to station-to-station calls placed with the Operator.



Chamber Hears Industries Interested In Pass Area

Bill White of the Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Committee reported that his committee has been looking into the possibility of the Senior Citizens Home and Nursing Home.

Clint Rasmussen and Bob Elliot attended a seminar in Lethbridge on methods of obtaining new industry in the Pass. They have two industries interested in developing in the Pass.

John Kerr presented samples of hand-out maps of areas to see and do in the C.N.P. Maps are to be handed out in fold-out forms by interested stores and service stations and are used as place mats in restaurants. It was also reported that a Mobile Tourist hut was to be operating 98 days this year.

The chamber has applied to the Federal Government for the opportunity of youth program for grants to employ student in high school or university. These jobs mainly the Tourist Hut, making signs to point out lakes or mountains and a general clean-up of the Pass — demolishing old, unused buildings.

Les Owen indicated on a progress report that the confusion of signs between Coleman and Blairmore have been rectified.

Chamber of Commerce has undertaken the project of a pancake breakfast for July 1 for the Blairmore school reunion.

Regular meeting on the first Wednesday of each month.

Highways Branch Information Asked

Editor
The Coleman Journal
Coleman, Alberta

Messrs. McCune, Howery and Dolinsky
Department of Highways and Transport
Government of the Province of Alberta
Room 379, Highways Building,
97 Avenue and 106 Street,
EDMONTON 6, Alberta.

Gentlemen:

I am the Director of the Transportation and Highways Committee for the Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce.

I must at this time command you and your Department for a wonderful system of highways in the Province of Alberta. However, there is a growing concern here with the number of dangerous exits and entries to the number three (3) highway between East of Bellevue, Alberta to West of Coleman, Alberta. We would list all the problem areas (of which you are probably already aware) but we feel a single question, if answered, could probably save a lot of lives and property damage.

The question is, "where is the intended route of number three (3) highway from Bellevue to Coleman going to be?" If we, as a Chamber of Commerce, were aware of this route we could better

estimate our pool project.

More than \$13,000 has been donated so far to the pool project.

BETTER DEAL FOR PRAIRIE TOURISTS URGED BY CRESTON FRUIT GROWERS

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

CRESTON — A better deal for Prairie fruit buyers is being asked from the B.C. Fruit Board by members of the Creston Valley Fruit Growers' Association.

A resolution seeking removal of the existing 20 box limit per vehicle (for tourist buying free fruit) was unanimously endorsed at the third annual meeting of the CVFGA.

Creston growers have asked, instead, that Prairie tourists be allowed to "legally transport, from the Creston Valley, 20 standard packages of tree fruit per family . . . with a maximum of 40 standard packages per vehicle."

The resolution was presented by newly-elected CVFGA director John Shukin. If approved by Fruit Board chairman, Nigel Taylor, the increased tourist limit will be for a year's trial basis.

CVFGA members claim the motion supports a statement by Agriculture Minister Cyril Sheldor, who has said the limit should be 140 boxes.

"If people can't come in and buy 140 boxes, we haven't got a free market," Mr. Sheldor has been quoted as telling the annual B.C. Fruit Growers' Association convention.

Creston growers say they are "disappointed" and "dissatisfied" with the actions of local Fruit Board member Dick Penson, of Canyon.

President of the CVFGA, for the third consecutive year, is Ed Gatzke.

CVFGA secretary Elvin Masusch said Mr. Penson presented a report in BCFGA president Allan Claridge March 16 claiming 80 per cent of Creston growers are opposed in any increase in the tourist tree fruit box limit.

"People said valley growers were opposed to a 40 box limit. He never asked me. He never spoke to me."

As far as I'm concerned, we're being very let down by Mr. Penson. I'm thoroughly disgusted," Mr. Masusch said.

He said Mr. Penson may have contacted "two or three" growers but he didn't speak to the majority."

Former CVFGA director Mrs. Edna Michniewicz, who attempted to present a resolution calling for increased tourist limits for the Olson

promote your plans.

Trusting to hear an early reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Crowsnest Pass Chamber
of Commerce

E. Leslie Owen,

Director, Transportation
and Highways Committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Clubb and Robyn and Mr. and Mrs. Hal Hawkins, all of Vancouver were Easter weekend visitors with Mr. and Mrs. John Russell of Coleman.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Campbell and Bonni are visiting with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Campbell.

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Matthews, Cold Lake, and Mrs. Sharon Patterson and children of Nanton, and Leslie MacDonald, Calgary, are visiting with their parents Mr. and Mrs. Jim MacDonald, Coleman.

Council Briefs

Coleman council at its meeting March 22 approved the Foothills Association for Retarded Children holding the annual "Flowers of hope campaign" in Coleman from May 9 - 15.

Council purchased a new truck from Crowsnest Pass Motors at Blairmore. The unit is to be used for hauling gravel and other heavy town duties.

A general assessment of the town is to be done by assessor Harry Randma this season. The last assessment was done in 1963.

A new net for the tennis court in the town park is to be ordered. Two new nets were purchased for the other two courts last year.

Legion Bingo

Winners of the Coleman Legion bingo are:
\$52, Mrs. Richards; Mrs. Gerald Getman.
\$10, Ellen MacDonald, Madge Perry, Irene Lether, Cliff Lether, Marion Grant, Polly Snoddy, Mr. McCulloch, Clara Tarabala, Miss Paquucco, Margaret Elwyn.
\$5, Francis Cote, Martha Galloway, Margaret Gates, Simon Syez.

Poisoning

Blairmore R.C.M.P. are investigating a large amount of dog poisoning in the Hillcrest area.

Police spokesman says it will probably take a month or more for this problem to clear up.

APPOINTMENT

EDMONTON — The Alberta department of agriculture announces the appointment of K. K. Pfannmueller as livestock supervisor for the Red Deer region.

He will provide specialized stock information for livestock extension programs and will supervise livestock record of performance programs in the Red Deer region.

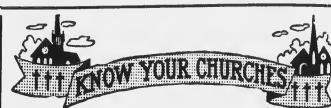
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TOWN TALK



TOP AWARD PRESENTED. Dr. Mau Sasonkin, right, adjudicator of the Crowsnest Pass music festival, congratulates and presents Kirk Blasimore, Blairmore pianist, with the Blairmore Lions Club scholarship award for the competitor showing the greatest musical promise. Mr. Muspratt received a high mark of 92 for his excellent and superb presentation of Shostakov "Preludes 19 and 24" in the piano solo 20th century music, 17 years and under class.

VERN DECOUX PHOTO



St. Paul's United Church

Family Bible Hour—11 a.m.

Lord's Supper—12:30 p.m.

Evening service—7 p.m.

Holding Fast the Faithful

—Titus 1:9.

Holding forth the Word of Life—Philippians 2:16.

Coleman Elks CASH and PRIZE

BINGO

in the

Elks' Hall, Coleman

on

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1971

ADMISSION: \$1.00

12 Games - Bonus Cards 25¢

\$140 IN 56 NUMBERS

Two \$25 Jackpots To Go

\$10 Extra Bingo Card

Winner to receive \$2 extra for each extra card he holds.

9 OTHER CASH GAMES

NEXT COLEMAN LIONS BINGO



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1971

ELKS' HALL - 8:00 P.M.

— 14 GAMES OR MORE —

6-\$10 - 4-\$15 - 2-\$25 - 1-\$50

BACKOUT - \$45 in 7 Numbers

1 - Extra Prize Game

If attendance is 140 or more we will play for an extra \$25 cash game.

Editorially SPEAKING

Master of Hypocrisy

It is ironic to note the government of Premier W. A. C. Bennett — which was returned to office in the last provincial election as a champion of Free Enterprise — has changed its tune to the extent of prohibiting liquor and tobacco advertising in British Columbia.

The announcement of Mr. Bennett's legislation — affecting not only the liquor and tobacco industries, but countless thousands employed in the newspaper, magazine, radio, television, advertising and communication professions — reeks of hypocrisy.

Mr. Bennett's legislation makes one wonder just where his government will next trample the principles of Free Enterprise — and invade the private rights of citizens.

Mr. Bennett is well aware of the millions of dollars paid annually to his government — in taxes — from the liquor and tobacco industries... as well as from those industries aligned with communication-advertising, and their employees.

Now, it would appear, Mr. Bennett wants only to squeeze his taxes from these companies without providing these industries an opportunity to promote and sell their products.

Now that Mr. Bennett's legislation is approved — and we seriously hope proven unconstitutional — perhaps the premier could announce how many more persons have been added to British Columbia's staggering unemployment lines.

Unfortunately, from the remarks of British Columbia's so-called Opposition leader, Dave Barrett (NDP), Mr. Bennett has received complete support from the Socialist side of the Legislature.

Mr. Barrett has gone so far as to "challenge" the liquor and tobacco industries to set up a fund for education and rehabilitation of drinkers in B.C.

We would suggest the liquor and tobacco industries establish, instead, a fund for education and rehabilitation of Social Credit-New Democratic Party supporters and MLAs!

We would also point out to Mr. Bennett (who may have forgotten since his Okanagan hardware days) that one of the life-lines of Free Enterprise is to advertise and sell products... which results in the creation of jobs, taxes and a higher standard of living.

It will be interesting to note — due to Mr. Bennett's legislation — the number of layoffs in both industries of salesmen, administration personnel, warehouse workers, plant employees, advertising personnel and communication workers.

All because Mr. Bennett wishes to keep his people "healthy".

Mr. Bennett's legislation could be the most insulting ever introduced by his government — belittling the intelligence of British Columbia's population.

Obviously, Mr. Bennett does not give credit to people who are quite able to make up their own minds about smoking and drinking.

Just who is W. A. C. Bennett to legislate against the private likes and dislikes of free citizens — even to reading about new tobacco or liquor brands?

If Mr. Bennett is sincere about his latest health kick, he should suggest the following Satutes:

* The atmosphere of the Legislature be cleaned to protect MLAs from the polluted air abounding such two-bit excuses as used by the premier to defend his legislation.

* The aid of the Women's Christian Temperance Union be enlisted, in full civil service capacity, to patrol every highway entry into B.C. — and airports — to confiscate all foreign reading material from other provinces containing liquor and tobacco ads. This will increase employment.

* All unemployed persons from the liquor, tobacco and communication industries be employed to monitor all B.C. cable television systems carrying tobacco or liquor advertising from outside this province.

Finally, the "champion of British Columbia Free Enterprise" should ask Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gagliardi to find jobs for ex-news and magazine advertising men, agency salesmen, brokers and commercial artists — affected by the premier's legislation.

THE COLEMAN JOURNAL

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN THE WORLD THAT GIVES A DAMN ABOUT COLEMAN

Published every second Thursday at Coleman, British Columbia by The Coleman Review Limited.

POST OFFICE

Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department at Ottawa.

REGISTRATION No. 1322

ESTABLISHED 1921

MEMBERSHIPS

The Coleman Journal is a member of the Alberta Weekly Newspapers' Association.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The publisher acknowledges the support of Mrs. Mildred Holstad in the publication of The Coleman Journal.

RATES

Subscription Rate: Anywhere in Canada, \$3.50 per year — Foreign, \$4.00 per year — Carrier, \$3.75 per year — Single Copy, 10 cents.

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Bill Smiley

Trudeau's Wedding The Wisdom Of Age

Belated congratulations to our Prime Minister and his bride. It was one of the big upsets in March. The others were Mohammed Ali taking the clobbering of his lifetime, and me winning an argument with my wife.

Not from the first have I been swept away by Mr. Trudeau's charm, though the women in my family were. At times I have had serious doubts about his attitude and decisions.

But when a man has enough sense to wait until he is 51 to get married, I feel our country is in safe hands.

Good gravy, if I had waited until 51, and I'm not there yet, I'd probably be able to ski and scuba-dive. And I might even be prime minister. And a millionaire.

But when a man marries at 25, he's had his best years thrown away. He's a twenty-five years of his life; the second twenty-five, that is.

For the first ten or twelve years, he's swimming against the tide. In more prosaic terms, he is spending about 140 of the 183 hours in every week sorting out his kids, his finances and his woman. That leaves him 28 hours to float, and don't forget he's going against the tide. So where does he float? Downstream, that's where.

About twenty-five years ago, we were on equal terms. Both in excellent physical condition. The only real differences I can see are that he had a lot of brains and a lot of money. And I chose to swim upstream, while he chose to swim down-stream, that's where.

It really racks me to think of the gifts T. H. have squandered in nearly twenty-five years of marriage. Especially when I think of Mr. Trudeau.

We're very much alike. He's a little older and has a little less hair. Probably more teeth, unless they've falsies.

The only thing I get a little worried about is not being asked to be Prime Minister.

And I still think I could beat him in a game of Russian roulette.

Perhaps there's one other minor well, and I do everything poorly. But don't forget he's had two and a half decades to practise — every difference. He does everything from sicking to chess — while I've had to catch them on the run.

I'd like to see what a great scuba-diver he would be if he'd had to raise two rotten kids and pay off about four mortgages. Not to mention dealing with a strong-minded woman who has a direct line to divine inspiration in every discussion.

No wonder he was able to scratch out a brilliant intelligent 25-year-old in his age. He's practically unscratched, while I'm like an old uncle cat. About all I could scratch my eye aside from the fact that my wife would kill me, is a 45-year-old, with three divorces and three children.

Don't for one moment think I'm jealous. Let him have his big rent-free mansion in Ottawa, while I labour over my heavily-taxed, heavily-mortgaged bovel.

Let him have his fifty or sixty thousand a year in salary. We have enough to put bread on the table, after paying income tax and putting two kids through university.

I'm not envious. He earned it, by being smart enough to stay single until he was 51.

At least I don't have to bother with platoons of photographers and numberless newsmen when I take out Barbra Streisand.

No, I wouldn't trade him even, my old lady for his, my kids for his charisma. They think I have charisma, which is good enough for me.

The only thing I get a little worried about is not being asked to be Prime Minister.

And I still think I could beat him in a game of Russian roulette.

EDMONTON REPORTS - WITH CHARLES DRAIN



Nor can a case be made for horses to the exclusion of other methods of transportation.

I see certain areas of a limited size as very advantageous in the maintenance of the natural species.

The amount that fishing will be curtailed will be insignificant because of the small size of a wilderness area.

Many people have never had the opportunity of viewing a stream with fish as they once were.

Exploiting of fish will upset the natural food chain to the detriment of some natural species.

Less than 5 per cent of Crown land is suitable for exploitation by industry. Most development would be in non-renewable resources which have a short life cycle.

With proper conservation measures, most damage can be limited.

To me, the battle of the future will be to maintain the ownership of Crown lands for the people of Alberta. Thus far, the present government of Alberta cannot be faulted in this regard.

It is my intention to have your proposed amendments to the Wilderness Act brought before the Legislature on second reading of Bill 67.

The powers of the advisory committee, as set out in the act, permit the addition of areas to those

already established on a provincial basis.

We can expect to see many more areas designated as wilderness, hopefully including the Willmore Park area.

J. D. Henderson was sworn in as Alberta's first environment minister as Premier Harry Strom announced two minor changes in his 17-member cabinet line-up April 1.

The other reassessment of duties went to Provincial Secretary Ambrose Holowach to the post of culture, youth and recreation minister.

A third government announcement named Dr. J. E. Bradley, architect of the government's new health services commission, as chairman of that board at a salary of \$30,000 per year.

Mr. Henderson, 44, will retain duties associated with the health portfolio he took over on May 20, 1969 at least until the cabinet proclaiming legislation merging the health and social development departments.

Mr. Henderson, a petroleum engineer first elected to the Legislature in 1963, will be charged with implementing the government's "multiple-use" doctrine in resource areas and with co-ordinating anti-pollution programs.

CHUCKLE OF THE WEEK



LEGISLATURE REPORT

By KEVIN PETERSON & DON SELLAR
— of The Calgary Herald —

The Social Credit government's reorganization plans reached the implementation stage April 1, when Premier Harry Strom filled cabinet and senior administrative positions.

The premier named 44-year-old J. D. Henderson to the new environment department portfolio which will have an administrative staff of 200 to conduct the government's anti-pollution campaign and implement its multiple-use doctrine in resource areas.

At the same time, Ambrose Holowach, 56, was sworn in as culture, youth and recreation minister. He had held the post of provincial secretary until it disappeared with the reorganization plan.

Mr. Henderson, a petroleum engineer, has earned a reputation for tough talk and action since he took over the health department on May 20, 1969. He will likely continue as health minister until the cabinet proclaiming legislation merging the health and social development departments, likely in a month to six weeks.

Mr. Holowach, who has held the provincial secretary's post since 1962, joined the Legislature in 1959 after serving two terms in the House of Commons.

The new Hospital Services Commission got its first chairman the day the cabinet changes were announced. Dr. J. E. Bradley, 55, is chairman of the University of Alberta board of governors and executive director of Edmonton's Glenrose Hospital and will earn \$30,000 a year in the new post.

Environment Minister Henderson moved quickly to fill the deputy minister's slot in his new portfolio, naming current deputy agriculture minister Dr. E. E. Ballantine to the position. Dr. Ballantine, however, will not be able to fill the position for three or four months because he is in an Edmonton hospital recovering from a heart attack.

A new deputy agriculture minister is expected to be named shortly. In the meantime, Don Potter, executive assistant to Agriculture Minister Henry Roste, is serving as acting deputy minister.

Also during the week, 16-to-21-year-olds in the province gained new rights and responsibilities when Lt.-Gov. J. W. Grant MacEwan signed into law the government's age of majority act.

Some 80,000 youngsters were added to the voters and potential voters lists by the new law. The 18-year-olds will now be allowed to vote, run in school board, municipal and provincial elections, and get married without parental consent.

The house also spent a full day in emergency debate concerning the possibility of a national rail strike, finally voting unanimously to demand the federal government do all it can to prevent a walkout and get trains moving again.

Members of both the government and the opposition stressed a work stoppage will harm all Albertans, particularly grain producers, at a time when grain marketing is just beginning to make progress.

The Legislature also enacted the Industrial Development Incentives Act, the \$10 million fund to encourage manufacturing industries in small communities.

OTTAWA REPORTS

By ALLEN SULATYCKY
MP, Rocky Mountain

ton during the week of April 18. Anyone interested in presenting written, oral or visual presentations at these hearings may do so.

The hearings will not deal with the townships of Banff or Jasper. This is a significant fact because it may indicate a willingness on the part of national park planners to distinguish between parks and townships. There has been a reluctance to do this in the past, resulting in consequences detrimental to those people who live in the townships and to the parks themselves.

Park planners in Canada's parks have confused parks and townships in the past. When public concern about parks began to increase, numerous changes were made to restrict the development of existing parks, which are established to serve the needs of visitors. These steps were held up by the responsible officials as evidence of proved administration and proper preservation of wilderness.

Hearings on the plans for Jasper, Banff, Yoho and Kootenay Parks will be held in Calgary and Edmonton.

